

Message Text

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FOR AF/W SMITH

E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: PEPR, OAU, LI
SUBJECT: U.S. ASSISTANCE TO GOL FOR 1979 OAU SUMMIT CONFERENCE

REFS: (A) MONROVIA 4964 (B) MONROVIA 3312
(C) MONROVIA 4206

1. OVER THE WEEKEND I HAVE BEEN REVIEWING WITH MISSION STAFF MEMBERS POSSIBLE U.S. CONTRIBUTIONS TO GOL PREPARATIONS FOR THE 1979 OAU SUMMIT CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN MONROVIA. I HAVE COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT TO MAKE THE DESIRED IMPACT ON THE GOL, THE MINIMUM U.S. GRANT CONTRIBUTION SHOULD BE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF \$300,000 - \$500,000. NATURALLY WE HAVE MADE NO MENTION TO THE GOL OF THE AMOUNT OF ANY POSSIBLE U.S. CONTRIBUTION.

2. BASED ON THE DISCUSSION NOTED ABOVE, I AM LISTING BELOW, IN ORDER OF PRIORITY, THOSE SPECIFIC PROJECTS SUITABLE FOR OUR ASSISTANCE:

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(A) AS WE RE-EXAMINED THE VARUOUS ALTERNATIVES, THE PROPOSAL FOR IMPROVING NAVIGATIONS SL EQUIPMENT AND SAFETY AIDS AT MONROVIA'S TWO AIRFIELDS, ROBERTS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (RIA) AND SPRIGGS-PAYNE, EMERGES AS THE MOST SIGNIFICANT COMBINING PRACTICAL IMPORTANCE FOR THE OAU '79 CONFERENCE ITSELF WITH LONG-TERM VALUE. AS NOTED IN REFTTEL B, THE DISTANCE MEASURING EQUIPMENT AT

RIA IS UNRELIABLE, OVER-AGE AND SHOULD BE REPLACED. THE RELIABILITY OF OTHER SAFETY AND NAVIGATIONAL FACILITIES AT SPRIGGS-PAYNE AND RIA IS IN NEED OF IMPROVEMENT. A BAREBONES PACKAGE FOR BOTH AIRPORTS WOULD START AT ABOUT \$300,00. I SHOULD LIKE TO NOTE THE INCREASING IMPORTANCE OF SPRIGGS-PAYNE, WHICH WILL BE THE BASE FOR THE BOEING 737 JUST ACQUIRED BY THE GOL. SPRIGGS-PAYNE WILL ALSO BE GETTING CONSIDERABLE EXTRA USE DURING THE OAU CONFERENCE WHEN IT IS ANTICIPATED A NUMBER OF OAU AFRICAN CHIEFS OF STATE WILL BE ARRIVING IN THEIR OWN AIRCRAFT.

(B) ACCORDING TO THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR AT THE OAU '79 HEADQUARTERS, CLARA NYAMBUYA, THE GOL ANTICIPATES THE PRESENCE IN MONROVIA FOR THE CONFERENCE OF OVER 300 NEWS AND TELEVISION PERSONNEL. A NEWS CENTER HAS BEEN DESIGNED AND TENTATIVE PLANS DRAWN UP FOR EQUIPPING IT AND TRAINING ITS PERSONNEL. THE FRG HAS AGREED TO PROVIDE SOME HELP BUT ITS POTENTIAL FOR ASSISTANCE IN THE TRAINING FIELD APPEARS TO BE LIMITED BECAUSE OF THE LANGUAGE FACTOR. MS. NYAMBUYA TOLD US TODAY, JULY 17, THAT SHE WILL BE DEFINING FOR US MORE EXPLICITLY THE NEEDS OF THE GOL FOR ASSISTANCE IN THIS AREA WITHIN A DAY OR TWO. I GIVE THIS PROJECT SECOND PRIORITY BECAUSE OF THE OBVIOUS IMPORTANCE TOT HE GOL OF MAKING THE BEST POSSIBLE IMPRESSION UPON REPRESENTATIVES OF THE INTERNATIONAL NEWS MEDIA DURING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE CONFERENCE.

(C) MS. NYAMBUYA, ALSO MENTIONED A REQUIREMENT FOR FURNISHING THE OAU CONFERENCE SITE HOTEL, INCLUDING ITS 230 ROOMS, BANQUET HALLS AND ALL OTHE FACILITIES. I INCLUDE MENTION OF THIS MONLY TO INDICATE AREAS IN WHICH THE GOL IS FINDING DIFFICULTIES, AND I DO NOT CONSIDER IT A PARTICULARLY SUITABLE PROJECT FOR US.

3. WE RAISED PREVIOUSLY THE POSSIBILITY OF PROVIDING ASSISTANCE IN ESTABLISHING A PRINTING FACILITY (REFTEL B). THIS PROJECT IS COVERED BY OTHER SOURCES OF HELP AND SHOULD NO LONGER BE CONSIDERED BY US. WE HAD ALSO PREVIOUSLY RAISED THE POSSIBILITY OF PROVIDING HELP FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF FUEL PIPELINE FROM THE PORT OF MONROVIA TO RIA (REFTEL C). SINCE IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT THERE IS INSUFFICIENT TIME TO COMPLETE THIS PROJECT FOR THE '79 OAU SMUMMIT, THIS ALSO SHOULD BE DROPPED FROM CONSIDERATION.
CARTER

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